(b) if so, whether the Aluminium Association of India had approached Master General of Ordnance Branch, Equipment Management Directorate, offering assistance for indigenous production of caskets;

(c) whether feasibility for manufacturing such caskets indigenously has already been ascertained by selected Army Base Workshops (ABWs); and

(d) if so, approximate cost per casket estimated by the ABWs?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) DRDO had received a proposal for indigenous development of Aluminium Caskets in March, 1996. The project was fore-closed at prototype stage as per the advice of Master General of Ordnance (MGO), Army HQrs on 2nd July, 1997.

(b) The offer of assistance came from Aluminium Association of India in August, 2000 after signing of the contract by Ministry of Defence with M/s Duitron and Baiza, Texas USA in August, 1999 for supply of Aluminium caskets.

(c) The feasibility was not ascertained at the time of procuring the caskets.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply at (c) above.

Adequate police personnel for safety of vulnerable sections of society

327. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the media recently wherein it has been stated that excessive centralization of police manpower to give security coverage to the VIPs and VVIPs in one important factor contributing to the inadequate posting of police personnel to look after the securities of elderly people, senior citizens and ladies etc.; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to make adequate police personnel available for these vulnerable sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Security of VIPs is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT where the protectee happens to be. The States and UTs have been advised by Ministry of Home Affairs to provide effective security to VIPs without excessive deployment of security personnel.

(b) The States and UTs are also advised to do manpower planning in such a way that such vulnerable sections of the society are provided adequate security as per local needs. The Government has also taken a decision that Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) would be the designated central force wherever the State Governments seek assistance of Central Forces for providing security to VIPs.

Controversy over police encounter

328. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 19 year old Ishrat who was killed in a pofice encounter in Gujarat, alleging terrorist links, created controversy in Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government of India are aware that Human Rights Commission ordered enquiry into the incident; and

(c) whether Government of India are ordering CBI enquiry about the shootout?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) According to the available reports, killing of Ishrat, alongwith three others in an encounter with the police in Ahmedabad, has evoked mixed reactions in Maharashtra.

(b) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the Government of Gujarat on 18.6.2004 to take appropriate action with regard to the investigation of the case, as per the guidelines issued by the Commission to all States/UT Governments on the procedure to be followed in all cases of deaths in police encounter.

The Commission has also directed that action be taken as per these guidelines and the final outcome thereof be reported to the Commission within six weeks.

(c) There is no such proposal.